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OC METRO Honors the Hottest 25 People of Orange County in 2006

In the O.C., Nothing is Cooler Than Hot

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (Oct. 26, 2006) – The sweltering temperatures of summer may be fading, but a certain 25 people in the O.C., from all walks of life, aren't quite ready to cool down. OC METRO Magazine, Orange County's business lifestyle magazine, is once again spotlighting the Hottest 25 People of the O.C.

OC METRO, along with Title Sponsor The Waltos Group of Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, is presenting the "Hot 25 Awards" during a special event at Newport Lexus on Thursday, Oct. 26, to such sizzling individuals as Bob McKnight, founder and CEO of the surf wear giant Quiksilver; Ed Grier, president of Disneyland Resorts and "Mickey's boss," and Erin Runnion, founder of The Joyful Child Foundation created in memory of her daughter Samantha.

Since 1990, OC METRO, the flagship magazine of Churm Publishing, Inc., has highlighted 25 individuals each year who have made a splash in one of the fastest-growing counties in Southern California. As always, OC METRO published a special issue on Oct. 26 featuring profiles and photos of this year's Hot 25.

The awards committee evaluates more than 150 nominations each year, narrowing the list down to those making the biggest impacts in a number of different facets within the community to create the Hot 25. Some are well-established movers and shakers; others are new to the horizon, but already demonstrating leadership and influence in the community.

This year, honorees represented the worlds of business, government, higher education, non-profit, healthcare, and law. The Hot 25 event attracts some of the O.C.'s most successful and influential businesses as sponsors. Gold Sponsors this year are Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC), Lennar and The Irvine Company.

"The Hot 25 list is important in Orange County because of what it says about the growth and vitality of this community," noted Steve Churm, Publisher of Churm Publishing and creator of the Hot 25. "I am continually amazed at the accomplished, innovative and charitable people who are selected for this honor.

"Our list is not about wealth, glamour or power, though many on the list have these qualities. It is about people who are shaping business, attitudes and ideas in Orange County. This region has emerged as a worldwide center of influence for technology, housing, finance, sportswear and culture. The people on this year's list are major contributors to this movement. We are proud to honor this group for making a difference."

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Nobody in the O.C. is hotter right now than the Hot 25 2006. The award winners are as follows:

- Ken Smith, Designer of The Great Park, Ken Smith Architects
- John Hueston, Assistant U.S. Attorney
- Sharon Lebon, Founder and CEO, Three Dots
- Janet Nguyen, Garden Grove City Councilwoman
- Bob McKnight, Founder and CEO, Quiksilver
- Scott Flanders, President and CEO, Freedom Communications, parent company of the Orange County Register
- Jacquelyn Tran, Founder and CEO, Perfume Bay
- Loretta Drummond, Women Build, Habitat for Humanity, Orange County
- Michael Cho, Attorney, Bernard & Associates
- Peter Adderton, Founder and CEO, Amp'd Mobile
- Jim Doti, President, Chapman University
- Erin Runnion, Founder, The Joyful Child Foundation
- Laura Davick, President and Founder, Crystal Cove Alliance
- Ivo Tjan, Chairman and CEO, CommerceWest Bank
- Jay Longley, Founder and CEO, Rainbow Sandals
- Francisco Garcia, Restaurateur, Founder, wegivethanks.org
- Curt Pringle, Mayor of Anaheim
- Kimberly Chavalas Cripe, President and CEO, Children's Hospital of Orange County
- Ed Grier, President, Disneyland Resorts
- Richard Gilchrist, President, office division, The Irvine Co.
- Douglas McAllister, Founder, President and CEO, Culinary Management Group
- Henry and Elizabeth Segerstrom, Managing Partners, C.J. Segerstrom & Sons
- Ted Smith, Founder, FileNet
- Emile Haddad, Chief Investment Officer, Lennar
- Ruben Alvarez Jr., Founder and President, Stay Connected OC

Additional sponsors for this year's Hot 25 event include:

Silver: Bacchus Development, Cavalti Home Theater, CommerceWest Bank, Cox Business Services, Crystal Cove Wealth Management, Vanguard University, Wahoo's Fish Taco with Karl Strauss Brewing Co., Twin Fin Wine, and Level Vodka.

Bronze: Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., BCS Business Communications Solutions, Caliber Media Group, Inc., Goodwill of Orange County, Stefan Kaelin Ski & Golf, The Island Hotel Newport Beach, METROPacific Bank, PB Next and Xpert Group.

About OC METRO Magazine:

Since 1990 OC METRO Magazine has been a major source of business news and information in Orange County. With a readership of over 200,000 professionals and executives, OC METRO is widely respected for its in-depth reporting and stylish writing. Every two weeks, at more than 1,100 quality locations, OC METRO delivers the news active Orange County business people need to be successful in this ever-changing marketplace.